



Strathmore 2020 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES

CREATIVE WATERCOLORING

with Leslie Tieu

LESSON 4: Geometric Rainbow

In video 4 we will create a geometric watercolor painting, one of my favorites!



SUPPLIES:



Strathmore 400 Series
Watercolor Block or pad
9 x 12", cold press, 140lb / 300 gsm



Daler-Rowney Aquafine
Watercolor Pan Set
24 colors



Princeton Velvetouch brush
round, size 2 and 8

1" and ¼" Painter's tape or thin Washi tape • White gel pen • Sand eraser • Bone folder

STEPS:

1. Begin by choosing a geometric pattern.

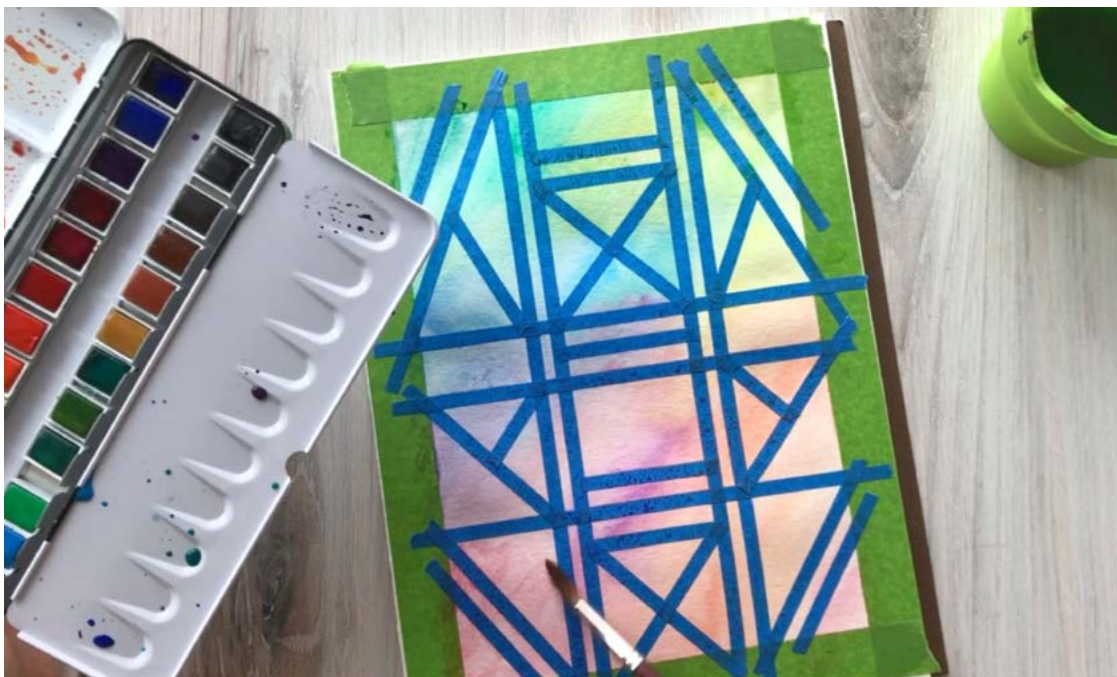
- a. A simple internet search for “geometric patterns” or “art deco geometric” terms will yield lots of inspirational photos. You can begin by first painting something simpler before investing more time in more intricate designs. I’ve included some additional sources of inspiration for you at the end of this instruction sheet.
- b. For today’s project, I’m using this photo of some buildings in Solvang, California as inspiration for my piece.



2. Begin by taping down the edges of your Strathmore 9x12" cold press watercolor block with 1" painter's tape.



3. Use your inspiration photo to tape down the design with your washi or painter's tape. Make sure to firmly press down on the tape to create a waterproof seal between the tape and the paper. This part of the project takes the longest to do and requires a lot of patience!



4. Choose a color scheme to paint as the background color for the painting. Create a wash of color over the entire painting.



5. Once the background color is dry, begin adding different patterns into each shape. There are several ways to add design elements to each shape:
 - a. Using wet on dry technique to paint in a color that's slightly darker than the background color.
 - b. Using a white gel pen, add a design in pen.
 - c. Choose not to paint in some shapes.
 - d. *TIP:* Try to alternate what style you choose to paint each pattern to create an even but random distribution of styles.
 - e. Use what you learned in Project #1 to paint in different leaf types.



Adding designs using a white gel pen



6. Once you're happy with the piece, set it aside to dry. Then begin peeling tape off the painting slowly, starting at one corner. Peeling too quickly or waiting too long (several days) to remove the tape may result in the tape tearing the paper. Using high quality paper like Strathmore's 400 series greatly lessens the likelihood that the paper will tear.



7. *Optional:* If you see areas where paint was able to seep under the tape, use painter's tape to block off the area and use a sand eraser to gently lift the unwanted paint off the page.

GEOMETRIC INSPIRATION:

